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MEDICAL MATTERS, &c., IN NAPLES.

From Prof. F. H. Hamilton's Notes of an European Tour.

NAPLES has a population variously estimated from 350 to 450,000, crowded into the narrowest possible space between the high grounds and the sea—dwelling in narrow and irregular streets—occupying every square foot of room from the cellar to the attic of five and six storied houses; and the 40,000 Lazzaroni, living on the sands of the beach, and sleeping at night under the sheds of the market places—beneath the stone gateways and within the cortiles of public buildings. A huge, compact mass of human beings, drawn together no one can say for what purpose, sustained no one knows by what means—and who all their lives do little else than laugh and chatter, eat maccaroni, drink wine and say mass. The king—"king of the Lazzaroni"—loves his people, as a wolf loves the tender kid. He has a palace in the heart of the city, that he may enjoy their constant proximity; and an impregnable castle directly behind it, to which he may retire when their company becomes irksome. When the cholera decimates the population, he celebrates mass for them in his palace at Portici, and sends word that no one must leave the city; but commands that they confess their sins and renew their vows and their *offerings* at the chapels of their saints. When, perishing with famine, they press on him along the Ponte della Maddalena, and throw their black bread into his carriage, he turns his eyes upwards towards the statue of St. Gennaro, and implores a blessing upon the wretches, then orders his secretary to raise the impost upon salt to $3,00 per bushel, and forbids the use of the sea brine under penalty of the galleys—to levy a new tax for the building of public roads, but which in three years will be legally forfeited to the crown, because the crown has not authorized the disbursement of the sums thus raised, and to enforce rigidly the payment of one-fourth of all the rents into his own exchequer. To-day I saw the son of the King riding along the chiaja and throwing a few grana to the beggars. My friend *whispered* that he was "making a short loan, and he would call for it in a few days with tremendous usury"—that "such liberality always betokened a new and grinding impost." I am not a seer or this youth is the last of that despotic and bigoted house who shall press the iron upon Neapolitan necks; for when, driven by the tempest of the French revolution, the seeds of liberty were scattered every where over the plains of Europe, a few withered and straggling grains were let fall

along the fertile banks of the Sebeto and upon the warm hill sides of Parthenope, where, swelling into life, they soon struck their vigorous roots deep and strong, and to this day these plants of liberty defy the power of the "Holy Alliance" to tear them up. The "Jacobins" of 1794 and the "Carbonara" of 1820, were from the same stock with the noble patriots, who a few days since were thrust into the dungeons of the Vicaria, for having dreamt of freedom, and who are to be tried and *executed* upon the testimony of letters surreptitiously obtained from the London Post Office by order of Queen Victoria! an act of contemptible espionage and royal theft, which "purple" cannot cover.

From narrow and putrid lanes—from taxation, meagre diet and famine—from poverty, rags, and homeless beggary—from mental enslavement, political servitude and chains, the transition to hospitals, alms houses, foundling establishments, lunatic asylums, prisons and galleys, is not forced. The one are the fountains and head streams—the other the artificial pools into which these various tributaries pour their muddy tides.

The "Spedale degl'Incurabili," which I visited in company with an English physician for many years a resident of Naples, is situated in a very pleasant and sufficiently elevated part of the city, not far from the College of Medicine and Surgery, and the famous "Museo Borbonico."

It was established and endowed by a lady of fortune in 1519, and having since then received frequent munificent donations, it has been from time to time enlarged, until now it is the most extensive hospital in the city, and will accommodate more than 1200 patients; who, as the name of the hospital indicates, are generally afflicted with chronic and "incurable" diseases. Females, however, suffering from lues, whether acute or chronic, are sent to the Hospital "Di La Fede"—there is also at the S. d. Incurabili a ward for lying-in women, but devoted exclusively to the unmarried. The infant may be retained by the mother when she leaves, or it may be sent to the Foundling Hospital, to be forever excluded from a knowledge of its parentage. As a suffix to this latter ward, there is a portion of the building allotted to such females as wish to retire from the world.

Connected with the Hospital are four clinical chairs, viz., Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Ophthalmology. There is also a chair of Practical Anatomy, which was formerly occupied by the celebrated Dominicus Cotugno ("Cotunnius") whose name is familiar to the student of anatomy in connection with the vestibule of the ear, and the spheno-nasal branch of the superior-maxillary nerve. Cotugno died in 1822, having bequeathed to this hospital 80,000 ducats, or about $64,000. In a large and sombre apartment—"the Consultation Room"—among a number of portraits hangs that of Cotugno, distinguished for its mild but intellectual countenance.

The wards of this Hospital are spacious and well ventilated, but not remarkable for neatness or the order of internal arrangements. I missed here, for the first time in Europe, the "Sisters of Charity"—their places being supplied by male attendants—and perhaps this is sufficient to account for a more than usual lack of cleanliness. Possibly my not meeting

with any of the "Sisters" might have been merely accidental. The two wards devoted to phthisical patients did not appear comfortable. The ceilings are arched and rather low, and the windows, arranged upon only one side of the apartments, are too loose and open to secure the occupants from the damp and chilling tramontane. The number of consumptives is now about 100, and of all the inmates they seemed the least cared for. In all the South of Italy, consumption is believed to be contagious, at least by the people; and I am told that many respectable physicians hold the same opinion. The consequence is that most of the foreigners suffering under this or any similar malady are driven from both private and public houses to the hospitals, where they are lodged as in a "Pest House"—entirely separated from the other wards, and avoided as much as possible by the "Capi Corsee," or ward servants. The floor was dirty, the linen soiled, and the patients, each of whom administered to himself from a cup of antimonial solution, looked sad and friendless, and altogether it was a most sorrowful place.

In a small room, called the Museum, may be seen, with other anatomical and pathological specimens, a part of the cabinet of the celebrated Scarpa.

The "Spedale della Misericordiella," situated not far from the "S. d. Incurabili," I did not visit. I understood, however, that it belongs to that very humane society the "Misericordia, whose members are occasionally seen in the streets, enveloped in a complete mask; of which fraternity I shall hereafter take occasion to speak and to describe more particularly. The order exists throughout Italy, and I shall doubtless meet with them again, and learn more of their character, duties, &c.

"Santa Maria della Fede" is still beyond the "Misericordiella"—in a quarter of the town to which "Dickens Points" of New York, St. Giles of London, or La Cité of Paris, afford no parallel—for here is a series of streets, forming a city in themselves, where every house is a lupanare, every man a pander, and every woman a courtezan. The hospital of "S. M. d. Fede" is devoted exclusively to these wretches, and corresponds to La Loursine of Paris. The civil and medical police regulating this class of citizens at Naples is similar to that of Paris, but neither as rigid, systematic, or effective. Such open violations of decency are not witnessed, I am confident, in any other city in the world, as in these horrible purlieus.

Returning again westward, toward the centre of the city, we see not far from the "Vicaria," or State prison, a dark prison-looking building, situated upon the Piazza Capuana. This is the "S. San Francesco," or hospital for the reception of sick convicts. Passing by which, for you will not be admitted except by special permission, and crossing the court containing the prison and courts of justice, you enter the "Strada de Tribunali," on the east of which stands the "Spedale della Pace," occupied by males affected with fevers, inflammations, &c., and which is at the same time one of the smallest and neatest charities in the city.

To see the hospital ("Santa Eligio") devoted to females laboring under similar diseases, you must leave this comparatively wholesome por-

tion of the city and thread your way southward a long distance, among irregular and constantly darkening streets, until you find the "Piazza del Mercato," the principal market square; celebrated in Neapolitan history as the spot where in 1647 Thomas Anniello, by the populace called Masaniello, commenced his famous revolt, and upon which in 1268 the young Prince Conradin was executed. The hospital stands just off from this square, amid loathsome odors and a more loathsome population. How the poor sick females can manage to live in spite of the braying of jacks, the shouting of market men, the malaria, &c., I cannot conceive, unless, indeed, the inmates were all residents of this quarter, and had thus become acclimated before they were received.

The hospital of "Loreto" is about half a mile out of the Porta Carmina, on the road to Vesuvius.

The hospital of the "Pellegrini" is in quite the opposite part of the city, and not far distant from the spacious piazza called the "Santo Spirito." In it are admitted male patients who have received surgical injuries. The number is not large, but the building is ample and commodious.

There are in the city two principal military hospitals for the army, "La Trinita," and "La Sagramento." "La Trinita" is on the slope of the hill upon which is placed the formidable castle of St. Elmo. The building was originally a convent, and is one of the thousands which Napoleon (in this instance *Murat*) suppressed in Italy, and with the lands and revenues devoted to a *useful* purpose. This convent Murat gave up to his brave soldiers, of whose comfort he was never less mindful than his brother;—for the monks of La Trinita had chosen one of the most delightful and airy spots in the city, and their green and well shaded terrace commanded a complete view of Naples and the bay, from whence now, such of the patients of the hospital as can see, for a large number have lost their sight, enjoy daily the splendid panorama spread beneath them. With such a residence one might almost envy them their misfortunes.

When Gualandi, of Bologna, wrote of this hospital in 1823, he noticed the great prevalence of ophthalmia among the soldiers of the Italian army, and he ascribed it to the "fine dust formed from the tufa rock upon which Naples and all the adjacent country stands; to the use of stimulating drink" (principally, but not entirely, the native wines); "to chilly nights succeeding hot days, to the reflection of the sun, and to contagion." But since ophthalmia is not especially prevalent among the citizens of Naples (indeed I have not seen a blear eye, and rarely a blind eye, among all the mendicants, those itinerating lazars of Italy), who are equally exposed to most of the above assigned causes—and having noticed that a large number of the soldiers were under treatment in the syphilitic wards, I have thought that to gonorrhœa and lues might be ascribed many of those destructive ophthalmic inflammations. The hospital contains not far from 900 patients.

"La Sagramento" is smaller and not as pleasantly situated, but in the same quarter of the city.

Following me in my rambles back to the "chiaja," the navy and marine hospital called Piedigrotta may be visited while you are paying a visit to the tomb of Virgil and the "Grotto of Posillipo," near the eastern entrance of which it stands. The wards are more like those of American hospitals than any I have yet seen, being smaller and more numerous, and thus effecting a more complete separation of the patients; at the same time that by the arrangement of windows and doors "*vis a vis*" a perfect ventilation is ensured. No one feature of nearly all the European hospitals have I felt so much disposed to censure as the great extent of the "salles" and the consequently large number of invalids who are crowded into one apartment, within sight and within sound of each other, and who are compelled thus to hear the groans and crazy mutterings of their dying fellow sufferers, and to witness perhaps the ill suppressed agonies of the only friend, a wife perchance or a husband, who has obtained permission to be present at this last hour. Here a priest with incense and holy water is administering "extreme unction," there the rude servants are closing the eyes and straightening out the limbs, scarcely waiting for the breath to cease from the lips. Such scenes as these are of daily occurrence, and who can doubt but that their influence upon the unfortunate survivors is sadly depressing, to say nothing of the effect of the noise, confusion and bad air inseparable from the presence of such numbers.

Such a charity as the "Massachusetts General Hospital" I have not yet met; I mean in point of comfort, and in excellence of internal arrangement. The hospital of "Piedigrotta" is, however, the nearest approach. The galley slaves who work in and about the arsenal, when sick or injured, are sent here also.

A few rods from my door, fronting also upon the bay, is the Royal Hospital for the Blind, established in 1818, chiefly through the exertions of Senore Quadri.

Naples has also a large number of hospices, the principal of which is the "Seraglio," or "Albergo dei Poveri," situated without the city on the broad and beautiful road which leads to modern Capua. This is an establishment which deserves notice. The building is yet incomplete, it being proposed that the facade of each of its four sides shall be 1600 feet, and the whole sufficiently large to accommodate 10.000 persons. At present the principal front is over 1000 feet in length, four stories high, and built of stone. Within are three large courts (when complete there will be five), the entrance is through a beautiful portico, with three arches; the centre arch opening into the church; one of the side arches leading to the apartments of the females, and the other to that of the males. About 5550 persons, including orphans, are now sheltered, fed, clothed and *instructed*, in this establishment. The females are taught to sew, knit, work coral, weave linen fabrics, and spin with the distaff. The males are taught various mechanical arts; also to read, write, compute, draw, engrave, &c. &c. A small number are sent regularly to the hospitals and the University, to receive instruction as "surgeons." (Not physicians—to introduce paupers into the fraternity of physicians might

offend; but surgeons rank here, as in Palermo, with perruquiers and barbers!) A certain proportion are also educated for the priesthood; but by far the largest number are trained for the army, the whole of the able-bodied male lads being subjected to a regular military discipline and drill. The same rule with regard to the girls obtains here as in the A. d. Poveri at Genoa; if they marry out of the house, they receive 30 ducats, equal to $24: which to us might seem a pitiful sum, but to a Neapolitan beggar it is enough for food, lodging and raiment, such as they usually get, for a year. One third of all the labor of the inmates belongs to themselves, and the balance to the government, which last amount, together with the income from the property belonging to the house, furnishes a revenue of 200,000 ducats, to which also the government is pledged to add annually 40,000 ducats.

When this building is completed, it will be the largest hospital in the world, and will probably contain the largest number of paupers, for if it was five times as large it could be filled, and the ranks of the paupers not be sensibly thinned in the kingdom of Naples. The inmates being drawn, not from the city of Naples only, but, as the inscription over the main entrance implies, from the whole kingdom. But it is very much to be doubted whether, with such a crowded population, however perfect their means of ventilation, the air can be kept sufficiently pure for health, and whether, if any contagious or highly pestilential disease should gain admission, it would not become at once a vast lazar house, which it would be dreadful even to approach.

Adjoining the hospital, towards the city, is a large and flourishing botanic garden, handsomely laid out in squares, and adorned with fountains. At present it is under the direction of Signore Michael Tenore, author of the "Flora Neapolitana," and a botanist of high rank. It is open to the public daily, and at this season of the year it is a pleasant and fashionable promenade.—*Buffalo Medical Journal.*

CASE OF POLYPUS, WITH ALARMING HEMORRHAGE FROM THE BOWELS.

By Dr. M. H. Fee, of Leatherwood, Indiana.

On the 13th of last September, I was hastily summoned to visit C. M., daughter of C. A. B., æt. 10 years. On my arrival I learned of Mrs. B. that an hour before, the little girl had a bloody discharge from her bowels, amounting, according to her estimate, to something more than a quart. There was also discharged at the same time, what I considered from description, to be a polypus, said by the parents to be somewhat larger than a partridge egg, of oval form, studded over the outer surface with hemispherical prominences, filled with a sero-purulent fluid, the peduncle being about the size of a large goose quill. It was left on the ground where it was examined, and before my visit had been swallowed by the poultry. I found the little patient much prostrated, with pulse scarcely perceptible, cold extremities, a sense of stricture at the præ-

cordia, and distressing nausea. I directed warmth to be applied to the feet, while I prepared and administered the following mixture:—Tinct. opii, gtt. xx.; spts. ammon., gtt. x.; acet. plumb., gr. jss.

In a short time after the administration of the draught, there was decided relief of the præcordial distress, as well as of the nausea, and the coldness of the extremities; and in about half an hour she had another bloody discharge, entirely different from the former; this being mostly clots of grumous blood, while in the former the blood was perfectly liquid. The last discharge amounted to about three gills. In an hour and a half after the administration of the draught, I repeated the remedy in half the dose.

Returning a few hours afterwards, I found my patient suffering with acute pain in the head, which was aggravated by the least jar or noise, her face flushed, and eyes injected. At first sight I feared lest I had carried stimulation too far; after feeling the pulse I became satisfied that this was not the case, but that the symptoms arose from loss of blood. In accordance with this view of the case, I mixed twenty drops of the spirits of ammonia, with four tablespoonfuls of water, and gave a tablespoonful every fifteen minutes until three doses were given, when her head became easy, and she fell into a gentle slumber. I left some laudanum and acetate of lead to be given in case the hemorrhage should return.

14th.—Found my patient laboring under some excitement, and headache, from a chill which she had at 9 o'clock this morning. The fever was soon reduced by spts. nitre, and her head relieved by cold applications. Ordered castor oil, ʒ ss.; oil of turpentine, gtt. xv., to be taken immediately. Had had one small grumous discharge during the night. Discontinued the saturnine preparation, and the opiates.

15th.—Found my patient in a strong rigor. It was now clear that this was a regular intermittent of the quotidian type. Ordered a solution of sixteen grains of quinine in two ounces of water, of which two teaspoonfuls to be taken every two hours, after the decline of the slight febrile excitement; also castor oil, ʒ ss., and oil of turpentine, gtt xx., to be taken this afternoon. The oil and turpentine of yesterday had produced two alvine dejections, feculent, and free from every trace of blood.

16th.—Found my patient greatly improved; no chill; two feculent discharges; had been up, and walked from the bed to the fire-place without assistance. Ordered quinine to be continued in small doses hourly, for a few days, with wine, and generous diet; bowels to be moved by castor oil and spirits turpentine in the afternoon.

17th.—This morning made my last visit to my patient; found her sitting up; fast improving in appearance and strength. From this time her convalescence was rapid.

This little girl had been for several years of a sickly appearance, sallow complexion, with constant præcordial distress, and weak digestive powers. She was thought to be troubled with worms.

I had been frequently called to see her, and had invariably prescribed for the verminose symptoms, but without at any time effecting any con-

siderable discharge of worms, the symptoms persisting, though with abated severity. She even became paralytic at times; and frequently quite unconscious, as if sitting up asleep, and in that posture showed no tendency to fall. In a word, the case exhibited, at times, all the characteristic marks of catalepsy. Suspecting that tape-worm might be the cause of the evil, I had taken steps to procure remedies for it when the discharge of blood and of the polypus came on, and changed my diagnosis of the affection. It may still be a question whether this polypus, so inconsiderable in size, was capable of producing so much constitutional disturbance, and especially so serious a derangement of the nervous system. I am free, however, to say, that notwithstanding the apparent inadequacy of the cause, it was, to my mind, the sole cause of the complaint. In proof of the correctness of this opinion, we have the fact that the girl has regained her health perfectly since the polypus passed away, and is now free from all symptoms of disease.—*Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery.*

LUXATION OF THE ANKLE JOINT WITH FRACTURE OF THE FIBULA.

By John Douglass, M.D.

An examination of the structure of the ankle joint, shows the wonderful manner in which nature has protected it from dislocation. Strongly attached as the bones of articulation are by ligamentous connection, and by the relative position of the parts, luxation, however, is comparatively, to the strength of the joint, a frequent occurrence and always a dangerous accident. From the articulation of the fibula with the astragalus, dislocation outward or inward is always attended with either fracture of that bone near the joint or its entire separation from the astragalus. If from the nature of the distortion, the astragalus is displaced, even slightly, the probability is that the latter injury will ensue; but as a general rule, fracture of the fibula attends luxation outwards and inwards, When fracture near the joint takes place, there is always danger, of at least partial anchylosis, to be apprehended from the ossific matter collecting around and uniting the articulation. In addition to this, the ligaments may be torn and lacerated to such an extent, that subsequent mobility may be entirely prevented. There may be extensive bruising of the adjacent soft parts, rendering the nature of the accident much more serious and complicated. Important as cases of this description may be, there is another, far more alarming in its appearance, and more dangerous in its consequences. This is compound dislocation of the ankle joint. In a case of this description, we have not only the dangers above mentioned to dread, but likewise a new series of great and immediate importance. It frequently happens, that the extremities of the bones are thrust through the surrounding integuments, and are splintered or broken by coming in contact with a hard substance; important nerves may be injured; the bloodvessels being ruptured, there is nothing to obviate profuse hemorrhage; from the ragged state of the skin, it sometimes occurs that the

bones cannot be protected from exposure to the air, and caries may consequently ensue. We learn from high authority, that no general rule of treatment is applicable to cases of this character, but that probable success of *this* or *that* procedure rests entirely with the discrimination of the surgeon. In extreme circumstances, it is advised by some to amputate without a moment's delay. But I presume, this resort is only justifiable, when there is not even a possibility of a successful termination, without removing the limb. In my opinion, a case which fell under my observation and attention some time since, warrants the conclusion, that no matter how unfavorable an aspect the injury may at first assume, provided the patient is young, temperate and in good health, and if there is reason to believe that the member can prove serviceable in locomotion, if suffered to remain, amputation should not be performed, until we are perfectly satisfied that the life of the patient is actually endangered by procrastinating the "*dernier ressort.*" The case alluded to is as follows:

On the 7th of April, 1844, A. Strain, Esq., ætat. about 27, in excellent health, and of a robust constitution, while riding horseback, was thrown violently on the ground, the horse rearing and falling upon his right leg. His foot was forced inwards with great force, and compound dislocation of the head of the tibia from the astragalus outwards, with fracture of the fibula, was the consequence. I saw him a few moments afterwards, and found the parts in the following condition:—A lacerated and contused wound, produced by the sudden escape of the head of the tibia, extended from the superior part of the ankle about midway between the internal and external malleoli, to the tendo-achillis. The extremities of the bones protruded several inches through the wound. The hemorrhage was considerable, for a short time, but retraction of the arteries soon checked it. By a close examination, the great extent of the injury became obvious. The soft parts were greatly bruised, the deltoid and other ligaments completely torn to pieces. The foot seemed to be suspended by the narrow strip of skin that was uninjured. Having determined to save the foot, if possible, I immediately reduced the dislocation. Some hours afterwards, I applied a paste-board apparatus, adapted to the nature of the case, and brought the lips of the wound as closely together as I could with strips of adhesive plaster. Opiates were freely administered, and emetics occasionally given. The patient suffered intense pain, but otherwise did well for a few days, having had but slight fever. At the first dressing, the parts looked healthy and continued to improve, until the first of May, when the patient was attacked with a tertian intermittent. The wound had heretofore suppurated freely, but now assumed a rather unfavorable appearance. At this period, I feared the necessity of amputation, but by the use of evaporating lotions, mild purgatives, and antiphlogistic regimen, and a few doses of sulph. quinine, every unfavorable symptom disappeared. The patient continued to improve, till the last of June, when an œdematous swelling about the joint induced me to apply the bandage, which effectually removed it. The cure continued to progress gradually, being retarded by the irritation of small spiculæ of bone approaching the surface, and was completed in the course of a few months.

The joint is of course anchylosed, but the limb is not deformed, and locomotion but slightly impeded.—*Southern Journal of Med. and Pharmacy.*

PRESERVATION OF HUMAN BODIES.

THERE is an arched vault, or burying ground, under the church of Kilsyth, in Scotland, which was the burying place of the family of Kilsyth, until the estate was forfeited, and the title become extinct, in the year 1715; since which it has never been used for that purpose, except once. The last earl fled with his family to Flanders, and, according to tradition, was smothered to death, about the year 1717, along with his lady and an infant child, and a number of unfortunate Scottish exiles, by the falling in of the roof of the house in which they were assembled. What became of the body of the earl is not known; but the bodies of Lady Kilsyth and her infant were embowelled and embalmed, and soon afterwards sent over to Scotland. They were landed, and lay at Leith for some time in a cellar, whence they were afterwards carried to Kilsyth, and buried in great pomp in the vault above mentioned.

In the spring of 1796, some rude, regardless young men, having paid a visit to this ancient cemetery, tore open the coffin of Lady Kilsyth and her infant. With astonishment and consternation they saw the bodies as perfect as at the hour when they were entombed. For some weeks this circumstance was kept secret; but at last it began to be whispered in several companies, and soon excited great and general curiosity. For several weeks they underwent no visible change, and had they not been sullied with dust and drops of grease from the candles held over them, they might have remained as entire as ever. Many months after, the bodies were as firm and compact as at first; and though pressed with the finger, they did not yield to the touch, but seemed to retain the elasticity of the human body. Even the shroud, though torn by the hands of the regardless multitude, is still strong and free from rot. Every feature and every limb was as full, nay, the very shroud was as clear and fresh, and the colors of the ribbons as bright, as they were when lodged in the tomb. What rendered the scene more striking and truly interesting was, that the body of her son and only child, the natural heir of the title and estates of Kilsyth, lay at her knee; his features were as composed as if he had only been asleep. His color was as fresh, and his flesh as plump and full, as in the perfect glow of health; the smile of infancy and innocence sat on his lips; his shroud was not only entire, but perfectly clean, without a particle of dust upon it. He seems to have been only a few months old.

Both bodies seemed to have been preserved in some liquid, nearly of the color and appearance of brandy. The whole coffin seemed to have been full of it, and all its contents saturated with it. The body had assumed somewhat the same tinge, but this only served to give it a fresher look. It had none of the ghastly, livid hue of death, but rather a copper complexion. It would have been difficult for a chemist to as-

certain the nature of this liquid, though perfectly transparent; it had lost all its pungent qualities, its taste being quite vapid. The head was reclined on a pillow; and as the covering decayed, it was found to contain a collection of strong-scented herbs. Balm, sage and mint were easily distinguished, and it was the opinion of many that the body was filled with the same.

Many instances of the artificial preservation of bodies might be mentioned, still more remarkable, though perhaps less interesting, than the preceding. The tomb of Edward the First, who died on the 7th of July, 1307, was opened on the 2nd of January, 1770, and after the lapse of 463 years the body was found not decayed; the flesh on the face was a little wasted, but not putrid. The body of Canute the Dane, who got possession of England in the year 1017, was found very fresh in the year 1766, by the workmen repairing Winchester Cathedral. In the year 1522, the body of William the Conqueror was found as entire as when first buried, in the Abbey Church of Stephen, at Caen; and the body of Matilda, his wife, was found entire in 1502, in the Abbey Church of the Holy Trinity, in the same city.

No device of art, however, for the preservation of the remains of the dead, appears equal to the simple process of plunging them over head and ears in peat moss.

In a manuscript by one Abraham Grey, who lived about the middle of the sixteenth century, now in the possession of his representative, Mr. Goodbehere Grey, of Old Mills, near Aberdeen, it is stated that, in 1569, three Roman soldiers, in the dress of their country, fully equipped with warlike instruments, were dug out of a moss of great extent, called Kazey moss. When found, after a lapse of probably fifteen hundred years, they "were quite fresh and plump!"

VALUE OF CONSTANT CLINICAL OBSERVATION.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—Since you have indulged me by inserting my communication on the subject of mania, in your excellent Journal, I propose occasionally to continue my offerings, so long as they shall meet with a like favorable reception; giving to the medical public such cases of interest as have fallen under my management or notice, during a long and somewhat extensive practice, with the hope of adding my mite to the stock of practical information. I would premise, however, that, so far as a thorough literary and scientific education is concerned, I can set up no claims to the attention of my medical brethren, in what I have to communicate; for, with such an education, it was not my good fortune to commence the practice of our noble art. But, as a substitute for that kind of education, I have, from the beginning, bestowed all the attention possible, at the bed-side of the sick, in noting the course of diseases, and the operation of remedial agents, so that I have been enabled to treat those diseases with a degree of success of which I see no reason to be ashamed, and,

in some instances, to put to the blush the theoretically learned ones in our profession. The inference to be drawn from this may be, that close observation, at the bed-side, affords great advantages, and should never be neglected, however extensive or profound may have been the theoretical acquirements of the practitioner.

The following case may illustrate this position. Some fifteen years ago, being in Boston as a member of the Legislature, a female child, at my boarding place, seven years old, was attacked with an irritative fever, and was placed under the care of one of the city physicians. For three weeks the disorder run on without much variation. I occasionally went into the room and looked at the patient. It did not seem to me that the treatment adopted could be so efficient as that which we are accustomed to pursue in the country, otherwise greater effect on the disorder would, by this time, be manifest. But, as I did not, up to this time, meet the attending physician in the case, I made no remarks about it. The child was now attacked with a convulsion fit, and I was called up in the night to see it, and requested to do something for its relief. I told the family that it would not be proper for me to interfere, in the absence of the attending physician, and they had better send for him. They said he could not be obtained in the night, and begged of me to prescribe something for the child's relief. I finally ordered an injection; and agreed to meet the attending physician, in consultation, on the following morning. We did meet, and I was asked what I supposed caused the fit, and what should be done for the child's relief. I gave the opinion that the fit was caused by the accumulation of viscid phlegm in the stomach, and that an emetic should be administered for its ejection. It was thought, on the other part, that the fit was caused by inflammation within one of the child's ears, and that an emetic, at all events in the debilitated state of the child, would be fatal. The emetic was not given, and the consultation here ended. In the following night the child had another fit, and I was again called up, and urged to prescribe something for it. A dose of castor oil was administered, and another consultation agreed upon in the morning. I again advised to an emetic. The other physician expressed his decided opinion that the case with the child was hopeless, under any treatment, and that, if an emetic were given, it would die in the operation. He told the family that he should do nothing more for the child; that he would leave it in my hands, and they might let me do with it what they pleased, repeating that it would die, at any rate, and very speedily if it took an emetic. He then left the house, and the child to its fate. After obtaining assurance from the family that no blame should attach to me, in case the child should die in the operation, I gave an emetic, composed of ipecac., with a little turpeth mineral. The dose was repeated in about half an hour, and again in another half hour, before any effect was produced. A small quantity of very tenacious mucus was at length thrown up, which was followed by two or three dejections from the bowels. Some perspiration on the surface appeared; the breathing, from being somewhat oppressed, became more free; and all symptoms indicated some measure of relief. Before night, a dose of ipecac. alone was given, a good opera-

tion followed, and a large quantity of extremely viscid mucus was ejected. The ipecac., in full emetic doses, was repeated daily, for several days in succession. No convulsions occurred after this course was commenced, and a gradual amendment in the child was soon manifest. It went on improving regularly, though slowly, until it was fully restored to health; yet, such was the reduced state of the child, when this process was commenced, that two weeks elapsed before it could stand alone on its feet.

The physician who first had charge of this patient, sustained the reputation of being well educated; but the many anxious days and sleepless nights, which, in the early part of my practice, were devoted to observation at the bed-side of the sick, gave me, as I apprehend, rather an advantage over his very superior theoretical education.

Bernardston, Mass., May 16, 1846. JOHN BROOKS.

HOMŒOPATHIC REMEDIES.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Dr. Forbes, after having razed to the foundation the allœopathic structure, which he found no longer tenable, is desirous of erecting in its stead a building on determinate principles; for this purpose he wishes to collect materials that have borne the test of experience.

Having already given the fact, that a permanent cure of a costive habit to which I had long been subject, as I have reason to believe, has been the result of the use of muriate of soda in infinitesimal doses, I will offer for insertion in the Journal another fact.

About two years since, my daughter suffered from a tumor situated at the root of the molares, which bore a strong resemblance to an osteocele of a most intractable character. After administering two globules of plumbum, the pain was soon relieved and the tumefaction disappeared in a short time. Did the infinitesimal dose of plumbum produce the resolution of the tumor, and thereby prevent a formidable and painful operation, *which otherwise might have been contemplated?*

WILLIAM INGALLS, M.D.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, MAY 27, 1846.

The late Dr. Luther Ticknor.—An obituary notice of the late Luther Ticknor, M.D., of Salisbury, Conn., in the New York Journal of Medicine, is honorable to the heart of the editor. Dr. Ticknor was the president of the Medical Society of Connecticut at the time of his death. We copy a portion of the obituary:—

"Dr. Ticknor was born," says Dr. Lee, his brother-in-law, "in Jeri-

cho, in the State of Vermont, March 9th, 1790. At the age of 15 he lost his father, who was accidentally killed by the falling of a tree. The oldest brother, Dr. B. Ticknor, now of the U. S. Navy, having left home, the whole charge of a family of eight persons, including six younger brothers and a sister, devolved on the subject of our notice; and, although in indigent circumstances, he kept them together and furnished them, by his own personal exertions, the means of support for the space of three years. At the end of that time the family were broken up; two of his brothers and sister he placed at school, and he himself engaged in laboring on a farm for two years longer. He then commenced the study of medicine with the late James R. Dodge, of Salisbury, Conn., and supported himself and the three other members of the family above mentioned, by teaching school a part of the year. One of these brothers was the late lamented Caleb Ticknor, M.D., of New York, whose early loss to science cannot be sufficiently deplored.

"Dr. Ticknor was endowed by nature with uncommon intellectual vigor; great energy of character; indomitable perseverance; and a courage that quailed at no obstacles, however great, or apparently insurmountable. He loved his kind with pure and disinterested affection; his benevolence of heart knew no bounds, and his life corresponded to the generous impulses of his nature; he wore himself out in serving his fellow men and doing good. It is not too much to say, that few, if any physicians, have lived in our country, who maintained in the circle in which they moved, more respect and confidence from their professional brethren, or a higher character with the public as a physician and a man.

"Dr. Ticknor was emphatically a self-made man. He had raised himself, by his sole unaided exertions, from an humble sphere of life, and he delighted in looking back and recounting the difficulties he had conquered. With his own hand, he had carved out his path to distinction and eminence, and he felt an honest pride in contemplating the ruggedness of the road along which he had travelled, and in lending a helping hand to those entering upon the same path."

"The foundation of Dr. Ticknor's death was laid in the incessant fatigue and watching to which he was exposed during the last two months of his life. For forty days and nights he scarcely enjoyed an hour's rest undisturbed by calls, and but few times during that whole period were his clothes removed for the purpose of repose and sleep. Just one week previous to his death he was attacked with a violent chill, which was the precursor of a severe attack of bilious pneumonia, of a highly congestive typhoid type, which ran its course unchecked by the means employed, and which terminated his valuable life on the evening of the 19th of April, 1846.

"It was our melancholy lot to stand by the bedside of the deceased during the last two days of his life, and witness the progress of a disease which had passed beyond the control of human art; and we shall not soon forget the perfect composure, fortitude and resignation, which he manifested in the midst of extreme suffering and distress, and the unflinching calmness with which, in the full possession of his reason, he resigned his spirit into the hands of his Creator.

"Thus passed from the earth a man, who was indeed A MAN—whose character had as few blemishes in it as may be permitted to the natural

weaknesses of humanity, if not as many excellences as our natures are capable of attaining in this imperfect state of being. It is consoling to reflect that he has left an example worthy of imitation—a reputation unsullied by a single blot—a name which will never be mentioned but with tears of gratitude and affection by thousands now living. These constitute a rich legacy which may be well treasured by his friends, and handed down as an heir-loom to posterity."

Diagnosis, Pathology and Treatment of Fever.—Messrs. Lea & Blanchard, Philadelphia, have sent out an admirably-constructed volume of 600 large octavo pages, bearing the title—"Fevers: their Diagnosis, Pathology and Treatment. Prepared and edited, with large additions, from the Essays on Fever in Tweedie's Library of Practical Medicine, by Meredith Clymer, M.D., Professor in the Franklin Medical College, Philadelphia, &c." Dr. Clymer's industry is clearly perceptible in this treatise, and, we doubt not, it will be well rewarded by that important class of practitioners who are ambitious in this particular department of medicine. Nothing would be less opportune than an attempt to point out the best system, or practical work on fevers. The world of learned men have but little in common, in this great field. Each one entertains a favorite theory of his own, on which a treatment is based, the very antipodes, perhaps, of his neighbor. Fevers, all the while, come and go, sweeping off vast multitudes of human beings; and though no writer hesitates to define their general character, but few seem yet to be perfectly satisfied what kind of depopulating agents they are.

Without discussing the question what gives rise to the maladies called fevers, or expressing an opinion in favor of one or another, we can with right good will recommend to those who study with a view to becoming wise in the management of remedies, to give careful heed to the teachings of our friend Dr. Clymer. He has added more than might at first be suspected—and in doing so it does not appear that his object has been to gain a distinction which he does not merit.

Uriscopian Practice.—From the representations of a gentleman of respectability in Western New York, it seems that this German system, as it has been called, of ascertaining the character of a disease by the urine, is gaining upon the confidence of the people. In travelling through Ohio, some time since, we noticed large yellow handbills, in conspicuous places, notifying the world at large that practitioners were in readiness, at certain stations, to prescribe for the sick on the uriscopian principle; but the idea was not soberly entertained, that it was any thing more than a revivification of the grossest farce the quacks of the last century ever practised in England or on the continent. It is evident, however, from the remarks of the intelligent writer referred to, that we were altogether in an error, and that the philosophical examination of a patient's urine is leading to very satisfactory results. The following is an extract from his letter.

"I have been in company with them (the uriscopian practitioners) for the last six months, and consider the knowledge that I have gained in discriminating diseases is of the utmost importance in making out a correct

diagnosis. To say the least, it gives a good allopathic physician a very great advantage over those who have not that knowledge."

Hours of Labor.—We have received from Mr. Luther, a copy of a general circular on the *ten hour* system of labor. We supposed, till this sheet appeared, that the whirlwind of noise upon that subject, had wholly subsided, and that people were permitted, as they ever have been in this country of free institutions, to be as industrious as they please. From a personal knowledge of Mr. Luther's habits and temperament, we are pretty certain that he does not follow the injunctions he is urging with much force and ingenuity upon the consideration of the working classes, as he actually works all the time. He is never at rest—no, not in sleep; for his active mind is even then, we apprehend, wearing out the body by the incessant friction of its rapid movements. Whether the law will ever express, in the statute books, the exact hours men, women and children can or shall labor, is problematical. When the legislature does take such a step, it will be meddling with that which the people alone can regulate. Necessity, avarice and a sense of duty are the impelling forces to labor, and the latter cannot well be interfered with, without deranging society more than it is benefited.

Surgical Cutlery.—Mr. Hunt, of this city, the ingenious manufacturer of surgical instruments, and, in fact, all kinds of elegant cutlery, has gone to Washington with a case of his specimen work. It is very certain that no artists in Europe can excel him in sharpening or tempering steel. Were the Government to give its patronage to our own artizans, especially by furnishing the army and naval surgeons with home-made instruments, which might be done on economical terms, to say nothing of national pride or patriotism, which might be permitted to have some influence, it would show our independence in that branch of industry, in a prominent manner. The nicest class of surgical instruments, if nothing else, have been supposed necessarily to come from England; but those who may examine Mr. Hunt's beautifully finished knives, saws, needles, keys, hooks, scissors, lancets, forceps, &c., of all kinds and conceivable patterns, to be exhibited at the fair in Washington, will acknowledge his skill and the complete independence of the profession, in this respect, of all foreign fabrications.

Caledonia Springs.—Such is the reputation of the Caledonia mineral waters, that it is quite needless to repeat the analyses which were published in the Journal last season. The distance from Montreal is not great, the route is delightful, and the accommodations at the Springs are said to be excellent, all the appliances for passing time agreeably being concentrated at the hotels of the place. The famous intermitting spring, once considered as lost, has finally been recovered. Dr. Sterling, an eminent professional gentleman, has been secured by the proprietors, to reside on the spot for the benefit of invalid visiters.

Missionary Medical Practice, Western Africa.—Geo. A. Perkins, M.D., whom we have the pleasure of knowing personally—a man admirably

fitted, by the constitution of his mind and a proper educational training, for the important station he now fills—who sailed from Boston about a year since, as nearly as can be recollected, writes from Cavallo, Western Africa, January 21st, that he had been at a temporary residence, called Taboo, till a dwelling could be prepared at Rockbookah. He has been devotedly engaged in practice among the natives, and they were delighted to receive medical assistance. While he remained at Taboo, which appears to have been only a short time, he had upwards of three hundred cases of every variety of disease, under treatment; many of them, however, incurable. While his house was building, Dr. Perkins was obliged to go frequently to Rockbookah, but his wife acted as dispensary physician in her husband's absence. Besides much other professional business at Taboo, Dr. Perkins has amputated three times. Two of the patients had perfectly recovered when he wrote, and the last was doing well. Surely this is the true method of introducing the blessings of an enlightened christianity to the heathen. Administer first to their physical infirmities, as the surest way of introducing the means of elevating their intellectual and moral powers. Physicians have thus far, in all missionary efforts, in savage and barbarous countries, been found the true pioneers. Where they have opened the road, the missionary can follow without hesitation.

Ophthalmic Professorship in Castleton Medical College.—Dr. Samuel M. Elliot has been appointed to the professorship of Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery in the Castleton Medical College. We understand that Dr. E. intends giving an extended course of lectures on this branch of medicine, in which he has already earned so great a reputation.

The Transylvania Medical School.—In the last No. of the Western Lancet, published at Lexington, Ky., complaint is made of the recent insertion, in this Journal, of a communication from E. Tennessee, respecting the appointment of Dr. Annan to a professorship in the Transylvania School. The only ground of any such complaint, it appears to us, is that the communication was anonymous; and this fact cannot justly be charged as an offence on our part, when it is stated that the name of the writer—a respectable physician—was known to us, and that otherwise the paper would not have been published. Permission was given us to publish his name at the time, though the writer preferred to be anonymous, and it is presumed he would have no objection to its being given to any who may hereafter desire it. As to the subject upon which he wrote, without expressing any opinion in regard to the view he has taken of it, we must say that we can perceive nothing in its general nature, or the particular circumstances attending it, which prevents it from being a proper one for fair discussion in a Medical Journal.

The Credit System in Medical Schools.—We are fully satisfied that an influence extremely detrimental to the profession, has grown out of the custom of granting credit in medical schools. The object in adopting this course is, to secure a large class, perhaps for the purpose of out-

numbering a rival school; and the consequence is, that all who present themselves, wholly irrespective of merit or qualifications, are duly enrolled as medical students, and their names go out to the world swelling the catalogue of some highly flourishing school. The success of such pupils, operates as an incentive to others to engage in the study, seeing that it is so cheap; and many an one who either has no occupation, or who may be too indolent to follow a mechanical pursuit, forthwith doffs his humbler business, and unites in swelling the Æsculapian throng. In this way the profession becomes thronged with practitioners, of every grade; and all parties, even those favored with the gratuity, are ultimately injured. It is true, some meritorious men will be found unable to pay; but there can be no doubt, that the indiscriminate admission of pupils into medical schools, is not only an act of injustice to those who do pay, but also tends directly to degrade the profession. We are gratified, therefore, to state, that the Transylvania Medical School has determined, by formal resolution, to abolish, *entirely*, the credit system; and these resolutions will be strictly adhered to. We hope all other schools will manifest a regard for the interests of the profession, and follow an example worthy of imitation—*Western Lancet.*

Treatment of Quackery in France.—Jean Canard was brought before the Correctional Police, charged with the sale of secret remedies, the composition of which is not indicated in the codex. He pleaded that these medicines, which were composed of a powder, were *given* by him for the relief of the unfortunate. It was, however, proved that he had demanded from some persons whom he had supplied with this vegetable powder, thirty, fifty, one hundred, and even two hundred francs. He was condemned in a fine of six hundred francs, and further sentenced, as being a former offender, to ten days' imprisonment. A herbist, named Repiquel, at the barrier of Fontainbleau, accused of illegally practising medicine and pharmacy, was fined fifteen francs for his practice of medicine, and five hundred francs for the sale of pharmaceutical preparations. Charles Drouhin, herbist, living in the Rue des Tournelles, was fined five hundred francs for illegally practising pharmacy. Denis de Saint Pierre was fined five hundred francs for the sale of secret remedies and pharmaceutical preparations.—*Provincial Journal.*

Society for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men in London and its Vicinity.—It gives us pleasure to be able to copy from the London Lancet the following gratifying account of a most praiseworthy association. We hope to see the time when the formation of a similar charity among us can be chronicled in our pages:—

"A half-yearly general court of this Society was held on Wednesday, the first of April, at the Gray's-inn Coffee-house, Holborn. Martin Ware, Esq., Vice President, in the chair.

"On reading the minutes, it appeared that two very gratifying benefactions had lately been received. One of them was a legacy, announced by T. A. Stone, Esq., of fifty pounds, bequeathed by the widow of the late Matthew Baillie, M.D., formerly president of this Society. Through the liberality of William Hunter Baillie, Esq., son and sole executor of the testatrix, this sum had been received free of legacy duty. The other was

a donation, presented through Sir B. C. Brodie, Bart., of fifty guineas from Lord Denman. His Lordship, it will be remembered, is the son of the late Thomas Denman, M.D, who was one of the original founders of the Society.

"At the recommendation of the Court of Directors, it was unanimously resolved that William Hunter Baillie, Esq., be elected an Honorary Member, and that Lord Denman be invited to become a Vice-patron of the Society.

"The annual dinner of the Society is to take place next Saturday, the 18th inst., at the Freemason's Tavern; and the Chairman of the Steward's Committee, Mr. Propert, drew attention to the great importance of notice being given by those who intend to be present. The arrangements have been made in the best possible manner, and a full attendance of the members and their friends is expected."

Tincture of Iodine in the Treatment of Porrigo.—Dr. F. W. Todd, of Port Gibson, Miss., informs us that he has found the *tincture of iodine*, employed locally, "invaluable in the treatment of that obstinate disease, porrigo." He has used it in all forms of the disease whether mild or severe, and in no instance has it failed to effect a cure. In the more active forms, poultices and fomentations preceded the application of the iodine.—*West. Medical Journal.*

Fossil Bones.—We learn by a small pamphlet issued by Isaac Castleberry, M.D., that some huge fossil bones have recently been found near Evansville, Ia. The remains were found in an alluvion deposit, having been washed out by the action of the river. Dr. Castleberry is of opinion that they belong to the *Dinotherium Magnum.*—*Western Lancet.*

Medical Miscellany.—The body of Dr. Houghton, State Geologist of Michigan, who was drowned in Lake Superior last autumn, has been found about six miles from where the fatal accident occurred, and was interred at Detroit on the 15th of May.—The cholera is said to have finally reached Russia, from Persia. The alarm in Germany for fear of the introduction of that fearful disease, is very great.—Prof Farraday has been lecturing of late on the newly-invented instrument for measuring time by means of electro-magnetism.—Four young Egyptians are pursuing medical studies at the hospital, and schools of Paris.—Dr. Douglass, an eminent surgeon at Quebec, has suffered exceedingly by the absorption of animal poison through a wounded finger, in performing an operation. He is now nearly well.

Died,—At Rochester, N. Y., Dr. Orin E. Gibbs.

Report of Deaths in Boston—for the week ending May 23d, 62.—Males, 36, females, 26. Stillborn, 2. Of consumption, 13—measles, 11—disease of the heart, 2—lung fever, 2—typhus fever, 2—rheumatism, 1—scarlet fever, 3—bilious fever, 1—croup, 1—dysentery, 1—smallpox, 2—infantile, 3—inflammation of the bowels, 1—brain fever, 2—disease of the spine, 1—dropsy of the brain, 1—convulsions, 3—old age, 1—throat distemper, 1—tumor, 1—debility, 2—hooping cough 2—apoplexy, 1—accidental, 1—scrofula, 1.

Under 5 years, 23—between 5 and 20 years, 13—between 20 and 40 years, 12—between 40 and 60 years, 6—over 60 years, 7.

Midwifery in New Orleans.—Probably no town in the United States of equal population presents so much bad midwifery as New Orleans. Here, unlike other places, the evil of mal-practice falls not on the poor alone, but also on the rich, who often employ negresses that happen to be lucky. The late Judge Waggaman, formerly of the United States Senate, informed me, that some years since an old, drunken negress, who was a midwife on his plantation, being called to a young black woman in her first labor, took a sharp case-knife, and performed the Cæsarean section, taking out a living child! The mother recovered soon, and had no inconvenience of a permanent kind, excepting a slight incontinence of urine. If this lucky negress had performed this operation for a rational end, obstetrical surgeons might have trembled for their laurels, since, according to Merryman and Blundell, it has been performed only twenty-six times in the British Isles, and has proved fatal to the mothers with but two exceptions.

Nearly all the white midwives of New Orleans are from foreign countries, and, with a very few exceptions, uneducated in their profession; and, as the law is becoming a dead letter, so far as medical practice is concerned, the number is augmenting rapidly. The law has done everything necessary to correct the evils of quackery; it requires, in all branches of medicine, and in both sexes, education, examination, and license. The Faculty, or the Medical Board, or both, are to be blamed. It is hoped that they may yet be galvanized into life, before all is lost.

"Midwives in France," says Dr. Stewart, "after two years' study at the School of Delivery, and submitting to two satisfactory examinations, receive a diploma to practise, always, however, under certain restrictions, one of which is, that in no case, and under no circumstances whatever, shall they resort to delivery with instruments without the attendance of a physician. They amount, in all France, to the number of 450, and practise almost exclusively among the lower classes of the community." (Hospit. Paris, 1843.) This number, divided into the whole population, will give an average of one midwife to every 75,000 inhabitants; while New Orleans has, probably, one for every thousand—nineteen in twenty of whom, it is supposed, could not give an account of the bones of the pelvis, or its diameters; of the womb, or its annexiæ; to say nothing of the general mechanism of parturition. In one respect the negresses are more safe than a vast majority of the German and Irish midwives—they will condescend to consult with doctors when difficulties arise, &c.—Dr. Dowler, in *New York Journal of Medicine.*

Non-payment of Medical Witnesses in Police Courts.—The case of two parties accused of rape, brought before Mr. Greenwood, at Clerkenwell Police Court, lately, having been adjourned for the purpose of obtaining medical evidence which negatived the capital charge, the magistrate observed to the medical man "he was sorry that, owing to the wording of the act of parliament, he was unable to award him any remuneration for his professional services. Had the medical gentleman gone a little further in his evidence, it would come within the charge of felony, and he could then have awarded him compensation." This was a very unfortunate state of the law, for it held out inducements to an unprincipled medical man to strain his evidence. This law ought certainly to be altered, for if medical testimony is to be paid for, it ought to be so in all cases where justice required it.—*London Lancet.*